



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Dear Ms. Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Thank you for your electronic correspondence of February 27, 2014 to President Barack Obama regarding the Freedom Industries facility in Charleston, West Virginia at which the 4-methyl-cyclohexanemethanol (MCHM) and poly-glycol ether (PPH) chemical spill occurred in January 2014. You expressed concern about the frequency of inspections at the facility and about spill response plans. Your correspondence was referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a response.

EPA has been monitoring the incident and has coordinated closely with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR), who responded promptly to this spill. They continue to take steps to remedy the release and restore the drinking water for the people of the Charleston area. The Federal government, including EPA, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has mobilized resources to support the state agencies through every step of this emergency. An EPA emergency responder has been at Freedom Industries throughout the incident, and EPA drinking water personnel have been in contact with WVDHHR and the West Virginia American Water Company to provide assistance and advice.

With respect to prevention and preparedness in advance of a spill or release, EPA has regulations for oil storage facilities under the Clean Water Act (Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program (SPCC) and the Facility Response Planning Program (FRP)), and for chemicals listed under the Clean Air Act's Risk Management Program (RMP) to prevent, minimize and respond to accidental releases to air. Although EPA inspected in the facility in 1999, the bulk storage of oils ceased in 2001. Facilities that do not store oils are not subject to SPCC or FRP. Based on our current information, the Freedom Industries facility in West Virginia is not regulated under EPA's RMP since neither MCHM nor PPH are on the list of RMP-regulated substances.

EPA is committed to protecting public health and the environment. If you have any further questions, please contact Joan Armstrong at (215) 814-3155.

Sincerely,

Cecil A. Rodrigues, Director
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division